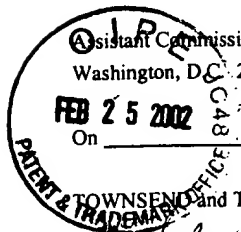


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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On

February 7, 2002

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: *Sylvia E. Arnold*

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

John G.K. Williams

Application No.: 09/876,375

Filed: June 6, 2001

For: NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCING
USING CHARGE-SWITCH
NUCLEOTIDES

Examiner: Teresa E. Strzelecka

Art Unit: 1645

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION
REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on January 23, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

The Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I. Claims 1-17, drawn to a method for separating an intact NP probe from a phosphate detectable moiety.

Group II. Claims 18-44, drawn to a method for identifying an intact charge-switch NP probe and to an intact charge-switch NP probe.

Group III. Claims 45-54, drawn to a method for sequencing nucleic acids using NP probes.